

over the years that when this floor receives an exemption bill, the floor just kind of loves it up and passes it. In fact, we can't recall a time when an exemption bill has been on the floor of the Legislature that it has not passed. And so we kind of regard ourselves as the guardians, I guess, of the public treasury, making certain that we keep our tax base pretty solid. Well, what happened on 55...556 is not a bad bill; 556 is not an irresponsible bill, 556 is a reasonable bill. But the Revenue Committee heard about ten other bills that dealt with exemptions, homestead exemptions. The widows of veterans want an exemptions. The widows of disabled people want an exemption. It went on and on and on and on and on. We were able to kill those bills. Now when it got down to 556 there was some support in the committee for the bill, but we also had in the committee an enormously large monster which you are going to hear next. That is LB 219. LB 219 would exempt farmers and ranchers from a sales tax on repair parts for their farm machinery, their farm equipment and all their other goodies. It would cost the State of Nebraska \$6 million in lost revenue. Senator Haberman thinks four, but it makes no difference because it is a lot of money. Well, because of committee dynamics we could not get the bill killed and, in fact, there was a reasonable possibility that the bill would be advanced to the floor of the Legislature. So the committee established this uneasy truce and the truce was that we would not put 556 out because there were some committee members who didn't like it, in exchange for not putting out 219. And that was the truce. So that is why neither bill came to the floor. Now we also told...I told Senator Labedz that it was within her prerogative to try to raise this bill out of the committee and I would not be offended by the effort and so Senator Labedz has filed the motion to raise the bill from the committee. Now the moment Senator Labedz did that, Senator Rogers and Senator Rex Haberman filed a motion to raise the other larger, huge bill from the committee and that is why you find these two bills back to back. And you literally have to make a decision on this. While I think that the homestead exemption bill, 556, won't cost the state any money, and the other bill will cost the state \$6 million, and I can support the one and not the other, the true risk is that if one is put on the floor, some of our colleagues might believe that the other has to be put on the floor and that shouldn't happen. That should not happen. It is a mistake for us to spend all afternoon this afternoon talking about how we are going to close